

CT-1299

Owings House, (Cleary House)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 09-08-2011

Owings House CT-1299

9714 Old Solomon~~s~~ Island Road, Owings (Calvert County)

1850, private access

The Owings House is an agricultural and residential complex located in Owings. The primary two-story residence, which is five bays wide and seven bays long, has several additions. The primary residence is surrounded by a complex roof with two turrets and an extended open porch. The residence is proximate to several agricultural outbuildings. The Owings House is significant for its association with the Owings family and its role in the development and transformation of Owings from a rural settlement into one of Calvert County's earliest railroad towns. In addition, the Owings House serves as a visual example of the transformation of domestic architecture from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century. Furthermore, the Owings House is significant as an example of a cultural landscape and a 19th-century tobacco farm.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1299

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Owings House

other Cleary House

2. Location

street and number 9714 Old Solomon~~S~~ Island Road not for publication

city, town Owings X vicinity

county Calvert

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Frank J. Cleary

street and number 9714 Old Solomon~~S~~ Road

telephone

city, town Owings state MD zip code 20736

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse liber ABE folio 680/77

city, town Prince Frederick tax map 7 tax parcel 521 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
X Other: Calvert County Historical Society

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> landscape	Contributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> commerce/trade	<u> </u> recreation/culture	<u>6</u>
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> defense	<u> </u> religion	<u> </u>
<u> </u> site		<u>X</u> domestic	<u> </u> social	<u> </u>
<u> </u> object		<u> </u> education	<u> </u> transportation	<u> </u>
		<u> </u> funerary	<u> </u> work in progress	<u>6</u>
		<u> </u> government	<u> </u> unknown	<u> </u>
		<u> </u> health care	<u> </u> vacant/not in use	<u> </u>
		<u> </u> industry	<u> </u> other:	<u> </u>
				Noncontributing
				<u> </u> buildings
				<u> </u> sites
				<u> </u> structures
				<u> </u> objects
				<u> </u> Total
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1299

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Owings House is an agricultural and residential complex located in the town of Owings, MD. The property is located within a dense rural settlement, and is set back from Old Solomon's Island Road (old MD Route 2), which runs through the center of Owings. The property features expansive open space, which was likely used for agricultural purposes, and is bordered to the north by deciduous trees. The residence is proximate to several agricultural outbuildings.

The original structure, built in 1850, is L-shaped in plan and contains two sections: the main block and the ell, with the ell extending from the rear elevation of the main block towards the west. The main block is two stories tall and five bays wide with a gable roof covered with standing seam metal, a masonry foundation, and shiplap horizontal wood siding. This center hall plan block is oriented toward the east and features a centrally placed entrance on the first floor with sidelights and transom and two-over-two wood sash windows with shutters in the flanking bays. All of the windows throughout the house are of two-over-two wood sash unless otherwise noted. Two chimneys with corbelled brick caps pierce the ridge line of the main block, located toward the north and south gable ends. A cornice with scrolled, pendant brackets is located beneath the eaves.

A one-story porch extends the length of the east façade which wraps around the southeastern corner and continues onto a portion of the south elevation. The shed roof of the one-story porch is supported by seven Tuscan columns, placed atop square-section paneled concrete bases. Historic photographs in the Calvert County Historical Society's Owings Family file indicate that the current porch replaced one that was one-story, three bays wide between 1911 and 1916. In that same period, a two-story polygonal tower and a single story polygonal bay were added to the structure at the southeast corner and above the roof line of the porch on the second story, above the entrance, respectively. There are windows located in the five full panel sides on each level of the tower and three windows located in the three full panels of the center turret. Both the tower and turret have conical roofs covered in metal and capped with a metal finial.

The two-story, gabled roof rear ell is three bays wide and extends from the two southern bays on the main block's west elevation. A chimney with a corbelled brick cap extends above the ridgeline at the west end of the ell. While there are no windows found in the south elevation of the main block, there are three nine-over-six wood sash windows located in each of the bays on the second story and an entrance in the center bay on the first story flanked to the east by a single window which is surrounded by a pair of shutters.

The porch terminates at the eastern wall of an addition built circa 1911, according to historic photographs. This addition was placed onto the west end of the ell and is two stories tall, reaching to just below the ridge line of the ell, and is covered by a shed roof that slopes toward the west. A chimney with simpler detailing than those found on the main block and ell extends above the roofline. While the north side of this addition is in the same plane as the north side of the ell, the addition extends beyond the south elevation of the ell, terminating on the same plane as the porch. An open porch with a shed roof, supported by simple wood posts is located on the western side of the addition. The south elevation of the addition contains two centrally located windows, one on each floor. The east elevation of the shed roof addition, which extends beyond the south wall of the ell, also contains two windows, one each level.

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Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Another addition was built onto the west elevation of the main block, roughly the width of the center bay, in the inside corner of the ell. This addition terminates at the west end of the ell. The addition extends to beneath the eaves of the ell and has a shed roof that slopes toward the north.

The west elevation of the main block features two windows on the second floor which reflect the arrangement of windows, in terms of placement, found on the east façade. However, those on the first floor have been replaced with a modern sliding glass doorway with simple wood trim that opens onto a modern wood deck surface. The western elevation of the shed roof addition at the end of the ell has a simple wood-framed entrance door featuring a single pane of glass. The second floor is punctuated by a pair of symmetrically placed windows. The west elevation of the addition located in the inside of the ell and main block contains two windows, one on each level, the one on the first level being a six over six vinyl replacement.

Like the south elevation, the north elevation of the main block has no windows, and contains the complex brackets under the eaves with corner returns where the line of the gable meets the plane of the wall. The bracketed cornice is found throughout the house except on the north and west elevations of the additions. The north elevation of the addition in the ell corner contains four openings, two on each level, with two small fixed pane windows on the second story and a modern replacement door flanked by a small one over one wood sash window on the first story. The north elevation of the shed roof addition at the west end of the ell features a single two over two wood sash window in the second story directly under which is a wood sash window on the first story, beside a simple entrance.

The house is approached via a concrete walkway that extends on axis with the center bay of the main block. The walkway is surrounded on each side by a row of pine bushes. Upon reaching the porch, there is a rectangular concrete step between the walkway and porch. A similar concrete walkway and step are found extending from the entrance into the south side of the ell.

A small gabled wood frame one-story outbuilding, with a hinged door, is set to the northwest of the primary residence. A pair of large wood frame barns is located near the southwest corner of the property, facing the driveway area.

Another small shed roof wood frame outbuilding, with a single small fixed pane window, open doorway, and a metal roof, is located to the northwest of the primary residence and appears to date to the late 19th century.

A small, one-story gabled wood frame barn, with a sloping shed roof addition to the south, is set to the southwest of the residence, bordering a dirt driveway. This outbuilding has an open entrance under the shed roof and a solid hinged wooden door. The barn is flanked by a small corrugated aluminum recent addition to the north. This barn was possibly converted into a garage. The building appears to date to the late 19th century.

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Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

Two additional two-story wood frame barns are set to the south of the property, and are divided by a dirt pathway, which continues to a large open field in the west. Each is flanked by a shed roof addition, and each barn has a metal roof. Both barns feature venting under the gable front, and feature a complex interior wooden beam framework that was used for the purpose of drying tobacco leaves. The buildings appear to date to the late 19th century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1299

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1850 **Architect/Builder** Samuel Owings

Construction dates 1850, c.1911, c.1916

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Owings House is significant for its association with the Owings family and its role in the development and transformation of Owings from a rural settlement into one of Calvert County's earliest railroad towns. In addition, the Owings House is a visual example of the transformation of domestic architecture from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century. Furthermore, the Owings House is significant as an example of a 19th-century tobacco farm.

Samuel Owings built the house in 1850 at age 19 for a family residence (his new wife was aged 16 at the time of construction). Throughout its history, the house was occupied by Samuel Owings, his son Harry Owings, his great-granddaughter Ringgold Prout Wilson (and husbands George Thomas Miller and Robert Wilson), and great-great great grandson Ray C. Noll III, through the early 1980s. The property was operated as a working tobacco and corn farm through the early 1980s. The property continues to serve as a residence, and is currently owned by Frank Cleary.

The Owings family has been present in Maryland since the early 18th century. Members of the Owings family served as agricultural leaders, real estate brokers, merchants, tradesmen, and manufacturers, and were responsible for the development of the North Beach / Chesapeake Beach summer resort. The family was instrumental in the planning for the Chesapeake Railroad, and was among the first in the county to export canned goods by train. In 1859, Samuel Owings (and his brother, Henry Owings) each purchased shares for the Maryland Agricultural College (which was chartered in 1856 and is now the University of Maryland). The contribution was part of the charter, which required that Maryland farmers raise \$50,000 for the College. According to George Callcott, former Assistant Professor of History at the University, the Owings' gift of \$200 "was one of the larger ones to the College." Their names, along with the other original stockholders, appear today on the Founders Gate in front of the University of Maryland in College Park.¹

According to Stein's *History of Calvert County*, Henry Owings was listed as one of 11 landowners in the county with sizable plantations and who owned more than fifty slaves. "Henry Owings of S" as he called himself, also served in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1870 as a Democrat.

¹ Calvert County Historical Society Owings family file

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Harry P. Owings served as a member of the House of Delegates as a Democrat in 1888 and 1889. In the early 1890s, Harry P. Owings was active in the wholesale and retail grocery business in Baltimore, but returned shortly thereafter to his home to continue farming and serve as a real estate developer. Harry P. Owings served as the first station agent for The Chesapeake Beach Railroad. Owings' role as a real estate developer was tied to his role in the development and construction of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad. He subdivided and sold much of the current settlement of Owings following the establishment of the railroad. David Moffat, the president of the railroad, changed the name of the town's railroad station from Friendship to Owings (which subsequently became the name of the settlement) in honor of Henry Owings. In addition, Owings played an important role in the establishment of a branch of the Eastern Shore Trust Company bank in Owings, and served as vice-president of the local bank.

Harry P. Owings served as a sales agent in the county for lime, fertilizer, coal, and corrugated (metal) roofing. The Owings House served as a boarding house for County residents who visited Owings to board the train. Visitors boarded their horses and carriages in Owings' livery stable, and obtained lodging for the night before taking the morning train. The Owings railroad stop was one (or the only) in the county during the early era of railroad travel. Mail and freight arrived at the Owings station for county residents unless otherwise marked.²

When Samuel Owings built the house in 1850, Calvert County was geographically isolated from the rest of the state, with few roads and no railroads. Water was the primary means of transport through the first quarter of the 20th century. There were no factories, large towns with diversified economies, and little influx of new settlers or immigrants from other counties. "The population increased only incrementally in the antebellum period and actually declined after the Civil War. The county was overwhelmingly rural and, along with the rest of southern Maryland, remained wedded to the tobacco economy long after it was abandoned by the rest of the state."³

The transformation from Owings from a rural settlement to a more defined railroad town by the late 19th century is paralleled by the physical transformation of the house from its original form into an expansive estate. Furthermore, the change in use from the property as strictly domestic and agricultural to a boarding house is mirrored by the changing role of the Owings family in local development from farmers to town leaders.

² Calvert County Historic Society Owings family file

³ Calvert County Historic District Commission. "Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation for Calvert County, Maryland" report prepared by Dames & Moore, 1995. 4-2

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Number 8 Page 2

The Owings House is typical of farmhouses in the mid-Atlantic where owners and builders attempted to transform their houses by introducing decorative elements such as elaborate brackets, which were applied to existing façades. The Owings House underwent a serious stylistic transformation with the addition of two primary turrets, which accentuate the verticality of the façade. Several earlier farmhouses within Calvert County were extensively modernized with applied elements reminiscent of the Italianate, Queen Anne and other styles. The Owings House demonstrates the evolution of the mid-Atlantic farmhouse; the alterations read as a textbook of changing domestic American architectural styles in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1299

Owings family file, Calvert County Historical Society.

Glassie, Henry. *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

Calvert County Historic District Commission. "Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation for Calvert County, Maryland" report prepared by Dames & Moore, 1995.

Kniffen, Fred. "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion" in Dell Upton & John Michael Vlach Eds. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Herman, Bernard & Gabrielle Lanier. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property approx. 5 acres

Acreage of historical setting approx. 5 acres

Quadrangle name North Beach

Quadrangle scale: 1:240000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the surveyed property is marked as Tax Map 7, Parcel 521. The existing Parcel is concurrent with the historic setting, and includes character-defining resources and setting which relate to the property's construction and evolution.

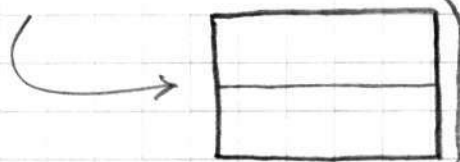
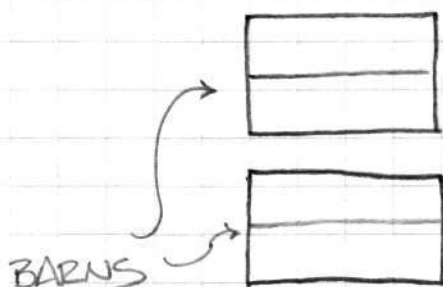
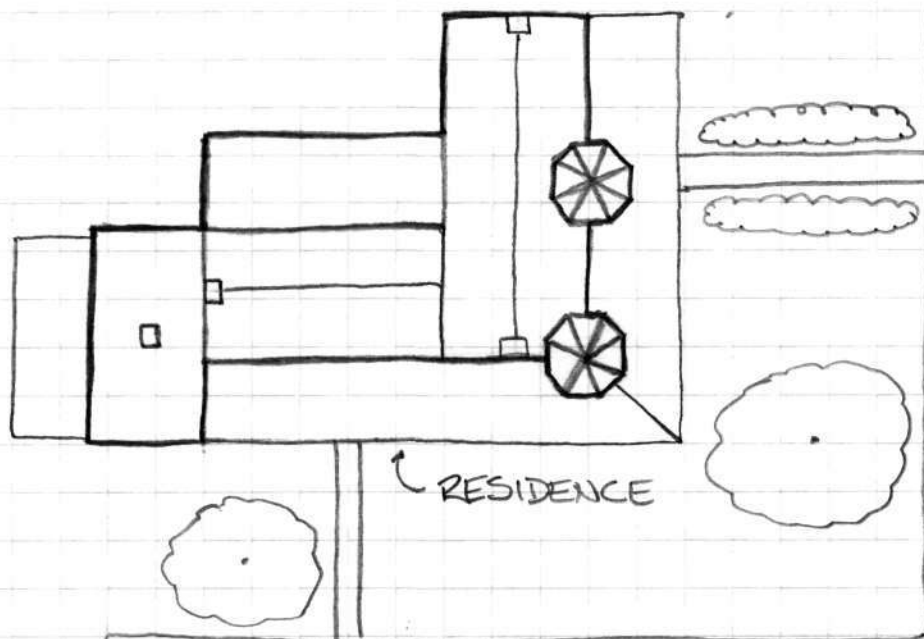
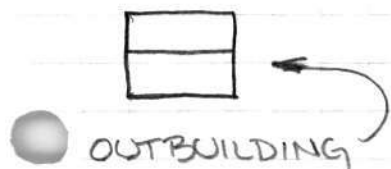
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Caleb Christopher, Architectural Historian, revised by Craig Tuminaro, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3.1.03, 4.29.04
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	301.258.5897
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



BARN

↑ N

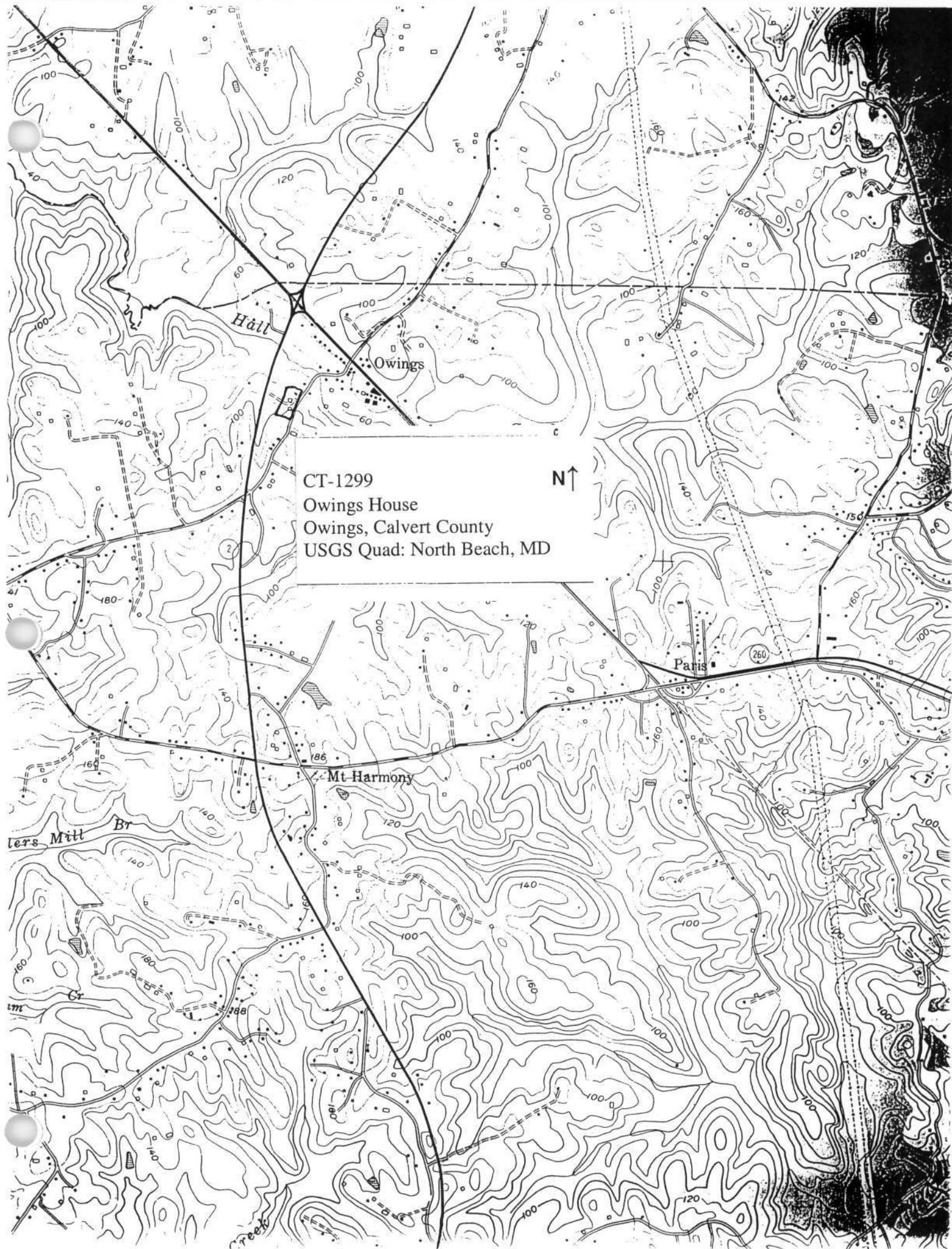
CT-1299

OWINGS HOUSE

OWINGS, CALVERT COUNTY

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

NOT TO SCALE



CT-1299
Owings House
Owings, Calvert County
USGS Quad: North Beach, MD



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 4 0035

008

CT-1299

OWINGS HOUSE

CALVERT CO, MD

CALLER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE MD SHPO

EAST FACADE

#1 OF 10

66509



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-12 0035

013

CT-1299

OWINGS HOUSE
CALVERT CO., MD
CAVES, CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE, MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

#2 OF 10

66514



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-11 0035

006

CT-1299
OWING S HOUSE
CALVERT CO, MD
CALVERT CHRISTOPHER
11/2002
NEGATIVE: MD SHPO
WEST ELEVATION

3 of 10

66507



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-13 0035

007

CT-1299

OWINGS HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CALLER CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

#4 OF 10

66508



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-13 0035

010

CT-1299
OWINGS HOUSE
CARWALT CO., MD
CALLY, CHRISTOPHER
11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHRO

VIEW OF ENTRANCE/WALK
EAST FACADE

#5 OF 10

66511



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 7 0035

012

CT-1299
OWING'S HOUSE
CARVER CO., MD
CALLED CHRISTOPHER
11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

VIEW FROM DRIVE

6 OF 10

66513



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN- 8 0035

005

CT-1299

OWENS HOUSE

CALVERT CO., MD

CALEB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATIONS
OF BARN

#7 OF 10

66506



5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-10 0035

011

CT-1299

OWONG'S HOUSE

CARWELL CO., MD

CARWELL, CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

WEST & SOUTH

ELEVATIONS OF
BARN

66512 [#]8 OF 10



5.65 BA 0ANXIN NNN- 5 0035

014

CT - 12919
OWING HOUSE
CAWNET CO., MD
CAWNET CHRISTOPHER
11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION
OF BAR

66515

9 OF 10



CT-1299
OWINGS HOUSE
CALVERT CO., MD
CALEB CHRISTOPHER
11/2002

5.65 BA 0ANX1N NNN-21 0035

SOUTH FACADE OF
OUTBUILDINGS

#10 OF 10

015

66516